

IRONWOOD FOREST NATIONAL MONUMENT  
 INFORMATION MEETING  
 DECEMBER 11, 2001  
 PINAL AIR PARK, MARANA

**AGENDA**

6 p.m.	Welcome and introductions	Tony Herrell
	Remarks	Shela McFarlin
	Plan Update issues	Tony Herrell
6:15 - 6:45	Recreation Update	Francisco Mendoza
6:30 - 6:45	ASARCO/Sheep Study update	Larry Shults
7:15	Guidance for planning process	Tony Herrell
	Review of proclamation and interim management guides	
7:30	BREAK	
7:45	Work groups assemble	
	Recreation	Francisco Mendoza
	Wildlife	Larry Shults
	Resources/vegetation	Darrell Tersey
	Cultural resources	Max Witkind
	Lands and Minerals	Susan Bernal/Bill Auby
8:45	Wrap up work groups	
9 p.m.	Adjourn	

Approximately 65 individuals attended a public information meeting about the Ironwood Forest National Monument, on December 11, 2001, at Pinal Air Park near Marana.

Tony Herrell of the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) introduced Shela McFarlin as the new Field Manager for the Tucson Field Office.

Francisco Mendoza-BLM Recreation Specialist- followed with an update of the recreation issues currently found on the Monument including OHV use, litter, trail construction and target shooting, emphasizing safety. University of Arizona graduate students will conduct a study of recreational use. Concerns regarding the use of an Enterprise team for mapping and volunteer signing were addressed.

Larry Shults-BLM Community Planner-then gave an update on the planned bighorn sheep study. A two year study of twelve sheep, radio collared with GPS units, is planned conditional on funding. The study will sample the location of sheep seven times in a twenty-four hour period and look at optimum habitat, migration corridors and a model fo combined studies for lambing and impacts. Shults addressed concerns regarding recreational impacts and geographic location of the study.

Tony Herrell followed with a power point presentation and discussion of work group division around the themes of: visitor use and enjoyment, resource protection and preservation, urban interface, intermixed land ownership and multiple use management programs. Herrell gave

examples of issues to be discussed in work groups and set the tasks of identifying issues pertaining to the work groups and setting up a meeting schedule.

Work groups must identify issues, data needed for issues and planned field trips by the next information meeting, March 13<sup>th</sup>, 2002, and prepare a presentation to the large group for this meeting.

**Ironwood Forest National Monument**  
Resources and Vegetation Working Group  
December 11, 2001

Issues	Relevant Data Needed
1. Vegetation condition (including ironwood, palo verde, forage health, general)	Current vegetation
2. Vegetation utilization/allocation (grazing, wildlife, other)	Grazing impacts on vegetation
3. Erosion: soil, vegetation condition	Grazing impacts on soils
4. Nichol's turk's head habitat and occurrence	Inventory and habitat survey
5. Sensitive plant species habitat and occurrence (cacti, ironwood, palo verde, etc.)	Current vegetation and soil condition
6. Water/riparian occurrences, condition, uses	Water inventory (springs, tanks, wells, or riparian)
7. Use of vegetation (firewood, posts, onsite vs off site use, saguaro ribs, etc.	Inventory of use (legal & illegal)
8. Air quality as related to land condition, road construction, use, and maintenance and particulates	Air quality monitoring
9. Watershed health	Inventory data
10. Utility corridors and their impacts on vegetation	Inventory of utility corridors, existing vegetation within them
11. Impacts of : fire, grazing, OHV, firewood collection, shooting, and other uses on vegetation and soils	Inventory of impacts
12. Exotic species occurrence/control/elimination	Inventory, control methods, etc.

13. Wildlife habitat (pygmy owl, lesser long-nosed bat, bighorn sheep, tortoise, chuckwalla, iguana, gila monster, other species)	Inventory of habitat for each species involved.
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**Next meeting: Monday evening, 6 p.m., January 14, 2002, at Pinal Air Park**

**Ironwood Forest National Monument  
Wildlife Work Group  
December 11, 2001**

Issues	Relevant Data Needed
1. Is there a complete inventory of wildlife on the monument?	Gather all pertinent data that is out there and distribute it to the work group. Conduct a literature search to see the other studies.
2. Are there any pygmy owl surveys within the monument?	Pygmy Owls survey around Silverbell Mountain results no owls.
3. Is the Pima County Conservation Plan wildlife inventory valid for Ironwood Forest?	Obtain list of species that is published in the Conservation Plan.
4. What are the travel corridors for the Big Horn Sheep herd?	Will have the Big Horn Sheep Study to answer
5. Are there any "hot spots" of critical habitat in the IFNM?	Need list of species and inventory of existing habitats.
6. What T&E species occur in monument?	Lesser long nose bat; pygmy owl.
7. What are their (T&E) season of use of the wildlife from the Monument?	Research Biological characteristics.
8. What are the critical use periods or special needs of each species. (T&E and priority species)	Research Biological characteristics.
9. Where are the roosting sites for long nose bats?	Research Biological characteristics.
10. What are the treats for the wildlife species and T&E species?	Research Biological characteristics.
11. What is the 19 BLM Sensitive Species?	Need list to be mailed
12. Should the Inventory List in the Sonoran Desert Conservation Plan be prioritized?	Obtain list of species that is published in the Conservation Plan.

13. What is the USFWS consultation process	Need more information on process.
14. What is the Habitat quality/condition for all wildlife species?	Need to inventory
15. What is the effect of human use on the wildlife habitat?	Need to gather data on human use patterns and impacts.
16. Desert Tortoise: what are their needs, habitat needs, etc.?	Need to commence study to answer question or look at other studies.
17. Establish prioritization grouping of wildlife. T&E; BLM; State list; species that would be common big game;	The AZGF is only one source of information on the inventory. Individuals may also hold information. Need to ask everyone.
18. Is there a representative group of species that would be looked at; indicator species to look at instead of looking at it all species. Then extrapolate to find out how the rest of species are doing.	Find out if this is an accepted way to characterize habitat.
19. Hunting What are the impacts of hunting in the Monument	Coordinate study with Recreation group
20. What is the trend of the species that is hunting?	Coordinate study with Recreation group.
23. What impacts are there to the habitat for the wildlife species in the IFNM? Are there areas of degradation, erosion, denuded areas, diversity species composition, road and trails?	Need to Identify the different activities that have an impact to the habitat that supports the wildlife.
24. What are the High Profile wildlife species?	Adopt philosophy that says “if habitat is at highest quality, then the remaining critters are doing well”. Ex. Las Cienegas NCA
25. What human activities have an impact to habitat?	Coordinate study with Recreation group.
26. What are the exotic species or noxious species out there?	Need to identify any occurrence of these in IFNM.
27. What water sources are available on IWFNM.?	Gather information on water sources.

Basic comments:

Need to prioritize all lists out there: USFWS; BLM; AZGF; Big Game animals.

**NEXT MEETING JANUARY 10, 2001 at 3 pm at the AZ Game and Fish office.**

AZGF to bring information on population estimates. BLM will be bringing sensitive list. Narrow Issues. Identify new issues.

**Lands and Minerals Work Group 12/11/01**  
Lands

Issues	Relevant Data Needed
1. Tucson Soaring Club	How to get patent? Remove from Monument?
2. Expanding existing corridor widths for utilities	What width is acceptable?
3. Identify corridors	Where, what width, etc.?
4. Removing corridors from monument	How to remove?
5. What types of utilities can be placed in corridors?	Review regulations.
6. Future uses of TEP proposed ROW's currently not in use in some corridors	Identify regulations controlling ROW's
7. Maintenance of ROW's?	Controlled by regulation?
8. NEPA requirements for grandfathered uses	
9. ASARCO raffinate pipeline and electric line unauthorized use	How to resolve unauthorized use.
10. Access for ranchers, to windmills, maintenance of roads and access; washes used as roads, conflicts with cattle	Regulations related to access.
11. Define what is a road and their uses for public, private and administrative	Definition and uses by regulation
12. Law enforcement patrolling roads and illegal uses of roads	Identify illegal uses.
13. Access to private lands used by recreationists	Is access available legally and how determined?
14. Access from Tohono O'odam Reservation	Is this legal and how is it controlled?

### Minerals

1. ASARCO unauthorized use on mining claims in Monument	How can this be rectified?
2. Is the above a mining issue or lands issue	Information needed
3. What constitutes a valid mining claim?	Information needed
4. What rights are vested in grandfathered active mining claims?	Information needed
5. Should mining claimants be compensated for not being able to explore on their claims? Is this a taking?	
6. Should potential mineralized areas and favorable exploration targets be removed from the Monument?	Identify mineralized areas
7. Should the Monument boundaries be adjusted to free claims?	What actions are necessary to adjust boundaries?
8. Will all mining claims be examined?	Information?

JABA Exploration has identified copper resources using geochemical, geophysical and drilling. Edge of caldera is a favorable site for porphyry copper-style mineralization. Two million dollars in investment. Target is associated with ASARCCO mineral trend. Exploration indicates a large mineralized area within JABA claims; porphyry style mineralization, the same as Silver Bell Mine.

Next Meeting will be Thursday, January 17<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 p.m. at the Nanini Public Library at the intersection of Shannon and Ina.

Ironwood Forest National Monument  
Cultural Resource Management Planning Group  
December 11, 2001

Issues	Relevant Data Needed
1. People disturbing sites which prohibits preserving them intact.	Identify all cultural sites. Need to conduct cultural resource inventory
2. People allowed to go too close to sites.	Need inventory information
3. Not enough enforcement to protect sites from destruction.	Need inventory/site information that can be used by rangers to protect sites/enforce laws

4. Illegal target shooting at sites is damaging sites (bottle shooting leaves glass around some sites). Trash left by shooters becomes a problem.	Need to identify/inventory illegal target shooting sites to determine where cultural sites are present & being damaged
5. Limited site inventory within monument. Limits rangers knowledge of where to expect to find people disturbing/destroying sites.	Need inventory information to develop cultural resource protection program incorporating law enforcement rangers
6. Use of ATV's, four-wheel drives, dirt bikes allows easy access (using washes, etc) to archaeological sites.	Need inventory information to identify site location/ & assess impacts
7. Some jeep tours allowing guests to pick up wood/cactus skeletons and take them out of the monument—may also be picking up artifacts from archaeological sites.	Need to verify information
8. Grave sites in historic cemeteries located in monument have been disturbed and skulls have been removed.	Need inventory information to identify site locations & assess impacts
9. Vandalizing/stealing petroglyphs - breaking petroglyph boulders with sledge hammers.	Need inventory information to identify site locations & and assess damages/impacts
10. Illegal collecting of pottery shards and artifacts from sites.	Need inventory information to identify site locations & assess impacts
11. Law-breakers are not adequately dealt with. (Not enough park rangers/law enforcement rangers vs numbers of people using monument)	Need cultural inventory information that can be used by law enforcement rangers
12. Lack of access control into monument and within monument resulting in destruction and damage it cultural sites.	Need inventory information regarding cultural resources & recreation/human use/impacts
13. Lack of controlled trail/road systems contributes to impact on cultural sites.	Need inventory information regarding impacts to cultural resources from these uses
14. Tohono O'odham view monument as part of their ancestral homeland as opposed to just cultural resources located on the Tohono O'odham Reservation. They are concerned about preservation of cultural sites.	Need information from Tohono O'odham regarding these issues/views

15. Tohono O'odham views not well/widely understood by general public. Sometimes not accepted by some members of general public.	Need information from Tohono O'odham
16. Illegal dumping of trash/garbage/toxic materials greatly increased since monument created and as housing developments are established at boundaries of monument. Some cultural sites being impacted.	Need inventory information regarding these impacts

**Next meeting of Cultural Resources Working Group is January 26, 2002 at 2:00 p.m. at Pinal Air Park**

Ironwood Forest National Monument  
Recreation Work Group Meeting  
December 11, 2001

ISSUES	RELATIVE DATA NEEDED
1. Hiking: right now there are only semi-primitive motorized areas, no non-motorized areas. What trails and other opportunities can be designated for hikers?	
2. Off Road Vehicle Use: Road access, maintenance, getting OHV groups working together, wildcat roads, wildcat OHVers, wildlife damage, wash running. (Possibly some kind of regulation system that will work in conjunction with existing permits of ranchers and other users?)	Road inventory
3. Safety: 1) roads; road maintenance and designation for safety purposes such as private property, speeding, reckless driving 2) respect and visibility between different users 3) shooting, horseback riders, OHVers, shooting toward urban areas, 4) Garbage dumping, HAZMAT trash, 5) leftover compressed bombs in Sawtooths	Location of safety problem areas,
4. Undocumented Immigrants: safety, garbage dumping, trail building, vandalism	Identify problem areas



5. Road Definition and Use: how will road use versus hiking use or bicycling use balance out? What is a road?	Road Inventory
6. Intermingled/overlap of ownership/jurisdiction: how will recreational users move from one area to another, how will people know where they are, how will permission be obtained, what are the different rules and regulations and can they be made similar? How will a peaceful relationship be maintained? (This includes the permitting process of the state land and the ownership issues of private land owners such as gates, roads and sight seeing.)	Ownership information, what rules and regulations apply to each area, jurisdiction,
7. Making use of resources for information: using hikers, OHVers and others to help report on information or situations they find.	List of people who could help with monitoring,
8. Target practice: safety, right now hiking and shooting are in the same areas, no designated target practice areas, shooting on ranches, garbage, shooting of signs, wildlife and range facilities, left over live shells, lead damage to environment (saguaro and other vegetation), HAZMAT	location of problem areas
9. Ability to contact/availability of law enforcement: undocumented immigrants, safety, target practice, compliance with rules	
10. Managing for multiple use:	
11. Bicycling:	
12. Method of education: how do we get the information out, understood, and followed? Dealing with people who don't care that they are damaging resources or breaking rules, posting of rules and regulations, signing, kiosks, maps (making use of local volunteers to help with signing)	

13. Wildlife and Habitat: remaining dead plants not disappearing, ie saguaro ribs, wildlife damage, recreational uses being compatible with wildlife, plant and other resources, protection of lambing areas,	Bighorn Sheep Study,
14. Aesthetic and visual resources	
15. Urban interface: urban growth squeezing available land, not shutting users out, safety, possible in fill of State land with houses if sold, garbage dumping (the local dump charges fees),	
16. Hunting: awareness of/during hunting season, access	
17. Use by non-profit organizations/existing recreation and public purposes leases: Tucson Soaring Club lease expiring within ten years, what is the future?	
18. Noise: military planes, other mechanized activities	
19. Differences between a park and a monument: what are they?	
20. Birdwatching:	
21. Camping	location and types of camps
22. Foreign visitors: increased use, awareness of rules, land ownership, safety, etc.	
23. Garbage Dumping: see above sections	Location of problem areas

General Comments: The next meeting will need to pare down the issues from the information and discuss the necessary data.

The recreation work group is tentatively planning several field trips. The group will also have some meetings in the field, the first of which will be Sunday, January 13<sup>th</sup>, 2002. The group will meet at 9:30 a.m. at Mile Wide and Reservation roads and will take between four and five hours. Anyone interested in coming needs to bring a sack lunch and water. The road does not require four wheel drive but is not passable for passenger cars. BLM will provide some transportation from the meeting point if requested prior to the meeting. The following scheduled meeting is the evening of Tuesday, January 29<sup>th</sup>, 2002. The time and location will be determined the 13<sup>th</sup>.